

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please add the following new Abstract of the Disclosure as a separate page after the claims:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for the production of short cooking time rice is characterized by that hulled rice of at least 10% moisture content, if required in packaging suitable for ready cooking, is heat treated for 1 to 30 minutes continuously or interrupted by equal or alternating capacity microwave radiation, to reach maximum 130°C. An apparatus for the production of short cooking time rice comprises a microwave furnace with a tunnel made from a suitable material, wherein the rice packed into packages is movable within the tunnel by a conveyor. Regarding the easy and short process, a remarkable energy saving is possible.